NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MONTHLY MEMO: TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS

NOW that spring is here again, we need to turn our thoughts toward our spring and summer activities. For at least one more summer we shall have to remember that we are "soldiers on the home front" and therefore cannot let down on our activities.

May I give you a few reminders?

- What about the Summer Round-Up campaign? If you cannot put on a complete program, are you doing *something* for child health? Are you planning to recognize May Day as Child Health Day?
- Is your nominating committee carefully considering the important matter of leadership for the coming year? You cannot make progress without good leaders.
- Since conventions have had to be canceled, are you planning to attend a district or regional meeting? Be sure to do so if at all possible, for we get real help and inspiration by meeting with others.
- Don't forget your local unit report. Won't you make it a very complete one this year so that your state and National officers may know what has been going on? Write more than can be told on the report blanks when you have carried out some special activity or have found an idea that is especially helpful.
- What about your summer plans? Will there be summer playgrounds in your community? Day camps? Child-care centers where needed? Adult recreation?
- Are you planning a victory garden for your family? A school garden? A canning project?
- Are parent education and preschool groups using the excellent helps in the *National Parent-Teacher* and other Congress publications?

Food. We know now, better than we have ever known before, that food is one of the greatest needs of the world today. We have to share our supplies with others until they can produce more for themselves, and we must plan to help keep the world better fed after the war is over. Read about the Food and Agriculture Organization on page 7.

We are asked by our government to:

- **Spend our summer producing food of some sort if it is at all possible to do so.**
- **Have a home garden, and produce even more food than we did last year.**
- **Can for home use and for the school.**
- **Take jobs on farms and in canning factories at the time labor is needed, even though we have never done such work before.**

Food is a weapon; although we can't all produce ammunition to be used in battle, we *can* help to produce food and to conserve it.

This issue contains a special supplement on THE UNITED NATIONS

What about the breakfasts at your house? A plea is being made to all homemakers to give their families a good, substantial morning meal. Father needs it to do his best work; children do better schoolwork if they start the day well fed; the homemaker herself has greater vitality if she begins her morning with properly chosen food. These days we are not very smart to do without breakfast or to be satisfied with just a cup of coffee.

Our handbill. We are very proud of the handbill we have had prepared in huge numbers for distribution to our parent-teacher membership. You will see the pictorial chart used on the handbill reproduced in this issue of the *Bulletin.* Doesn't it tell a clear and vivid story about the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals? We are indebted to the U.S. Department of State for the material and the pictorial chart.

Please do use this chart so that its story may reach many! Why not put it up on the bulletin board at school, or hang it up with your maps at home for your friends to see? More are available at your state office.

United National Clothing Collection. A final reminder to cooperate to the greatest possible extent in the April clothing campaign. If no one else has begun a campaign in your community, wire the executive director, Dan A. West, National Headquarters of the United National Clothing Collection, 100 Maiden Lane, New York 5, New York. Tell him you want to do something, and ask him for instructions about how to proceed.

Watch your papers. Be sure to follow reports of the San Francisco meeting of the representatives of the United Nations that begins on April 25. The future of the world hangs in the balance there. We cannot take the deliberations of this conference too seriously.

Jeannette A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

Democracy in Action

The problem of non-English speaking groups of parents who want to take an active part in P.T.A. work but cannot because of their language difficulties is a real one in many parts of the country. Several of our Southwestern states report that they have made plans to help these parents to become informed and active parent-teacher members.

Arizona—A P.T.A. composed entirely of Spanish-speaking citizens has been organized. Most of its leaders are graduates of local schools who are now starting their own children through the same school system.

California—The state congress is providing program material and suggestions for several district presidents working with Mexican nationals and Spanish-speaking citizen groups, and is also making use of two Spanish film lists.

Colorado—Questionnaires were sent to a dozen key persons to determine the most urgent problems presented by large Spanish-speaking populations. The following five recommendations were outlined as a result of this survey:

1. *Secure and train leaders for activities among Spanish-speaking groups.*
2. *Provide study groups stressing nutrition, health, and sanitation.*
3. *Provide opportunities for the members to express the products and special achievements of their cultural heritage.*
4. *Help these citizens to secure better jobs and show them how to raise their social and economic standards.*
5. *Encourage the formation of Scout troops.*

New Mexico—Radio programs and printed materials in Spanish and films in both Spanish and English have been used to good advantage at P.T.A. meetings. Separate P.T.A.'s of Spanish-speaking groups were found undesirable, but every effort is being made to encourage Spanish-speaking members to attend meetings, to stage their lovely costume dances, to offer information about their special native menus, and to contribute many other features in which they excel.

Texas—P.T.A. programs for the year are announced in Spanish as well as in English in the July issue of the *Texas Parent-Teacher*. Other materials are also published in Spanish each month. Procedure courses are printed in that language, and Spanish sound-track films are made available to groups that request them. Texas state congress leaders who speak Spanish have endeared themselves to their Spanish-speaking members by visiting meetings of these groups and participating in discussions.

Utah—Programs using films with Spanish dialogue are being prepared for communities having large numbers of Spanish-speaking people.

A Tip to Radio Chairmen

The Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, as well as numerous local groups within the state, has been active in promoting P.T.A. radio programs. Station WIND has generously allocated time to the work of the parent-teacher organization, and many of their programs have been presented over this station.

In speaking of these programs, Fred E. Willson, program director, writes, "In our opinion the P.T.A. series has been unusually successful. Full credit for that success is due the many members of the P.T.A. who have participated. . . . Our P.T.A. programs have been a definite indication to us of the part a radio station's public service can play in the lives and minds of our listeners. The programs have been models of what constitutes good public service program listenability."

Mr. Willson goes on to make some comments that will be of interest and help to all who have to do the planning of P.T.A. radio programs. Inasmuch as the time of radio stations is limited, it is necessary to budget public service programs very strictly. Each public service group must therefore be able to present a worth-while program in order to get on the air.

The chief questions considered in allocating time to such groups at WIND are:

- *Is the proposed program of value to the general public?*
- *Is the message of importance to many people?*
- *Do listeners want to know the group's aims and hear of the past, present, and future developments?*
- *Can the program be made interesting enough to attract and hold an audience?*

Membership Builders

The Cleveland, Ohio, Parent-Teacher Council has planned two new devices to increase interest and membership. Mrs. G. D. Russell, membership chairman, reports that the council, in cooperation with the art department of one school, made a large 5x7-foot map of the city. The seven school districts are designated by little schoolhouses in various colors, each marked with the date on which its P.T.A. was organized. Thus workers can tell at a glance which schools have no P.T.A.'s and what work still lies ahead for them. In addition, slips of paper are pinned to the schoolhouses to indicate the number of members in each association.

Each P.T.A. is also preparing a pictorial chart of its membership record. These charts were displayed at the Cleveland Extension Institute on March 1 and judged by the school art director. Awards were given for the most effective presentation of these membership records, and all schools participating received honorable mention.

Guidance for Leaders

An excellent handbook of information, helps, and suggestions for P.T.A. leaders and committees, prepared for a recent workshop of the San Francisco Second District, has been received at the National Office. The booklet is attractive, informative, and cleverly illustrated and has doubtless proved helpful to those who attended the workshop.

The first page is devoted to a digest of the policies of the parent-teacher organization. Then follow an excellent description of the abilities and necessary qualities of a good leader and a list of the duties of the presiding officer and correct parliamentary procedure.

Suggestions for making vital committee reports, a model form for recording minutes, facts and information about the finances of the parent-teacher association at its various levels, instructions to financial officers and committees, and suggested activities for all committees are among the other contents of this practical P.T.A. aid.

Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Is your kitchen contributing its share of fat?

THE UNITED NATIONS

AN ORGANIZATION TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND TO PROMOTE GENERAL WELFARE

PRELIMINARY discussion among the United Nations toward establishing a workable organization of nations for future world peace and progress took shape during the summer and fall of 1944. At that time representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China met at Dumbarton Oaks, near Washington, D. C., and drew up a preliminary plan for such an organization, to be called THE UNITED NATIONS. This plan, which has since been known as The Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, was then released to the people of the United Nations for review and discussion.

In February, 1945, the plan was further advanced at a meeting at Yalta on the Crimean Peninsula between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin.

It was decided to invite the United Nations to attend a general conference in San Francisco, beginning in April, to decide upon the draft of an actual charter for the organization. This charter will then be placed before the governments of the United Nations for official consideration.

PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

There are two principal and equally important purposes of the proposed organization:

1 To insure peace by common action among the peace-loving nations of the world.

2 To promote economic and social progress, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(Turn to page 6)

THE UNI

AN ORGANIZATION FOR

ENCOURAGES NATIONS TO COOPERATE

Seeks solutions to pressing political, economic, and social problems and helps nations to cooperate in solving them.

PROMOTES PROSPERITY

Helps nations work together for post-war reconstruction, increased trade, dependable money, and economic development.

ADVANCES SOCIAL PROGRESS

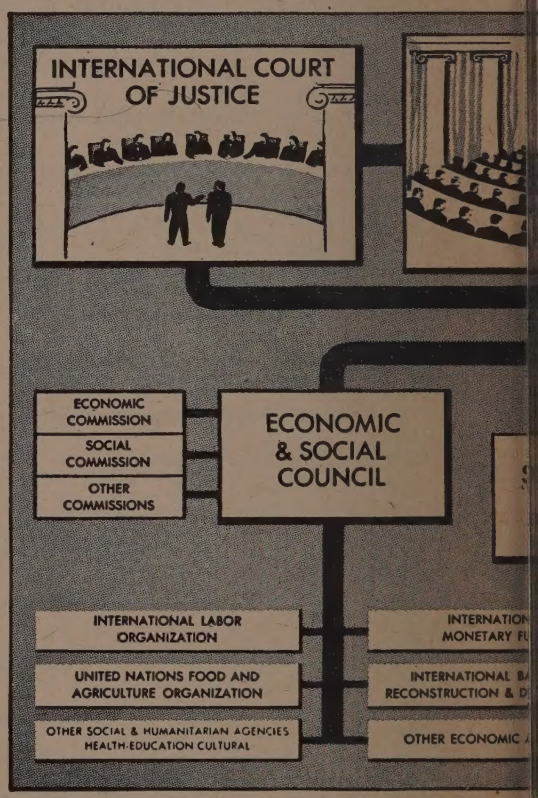
Helps nations to raise standards of living, health, and education to achieve a richer life for all.

FOSTERS FREEDOMS

Cultivates respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to insure the free flow of knowledge essential to material and spiritual growth.

COORDINATES INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Assures coordination and cooperation among the international organizations working on vital problems.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZAT

The Proposals were recommended to their governments b representatives of the United States, Great Britain, USSR

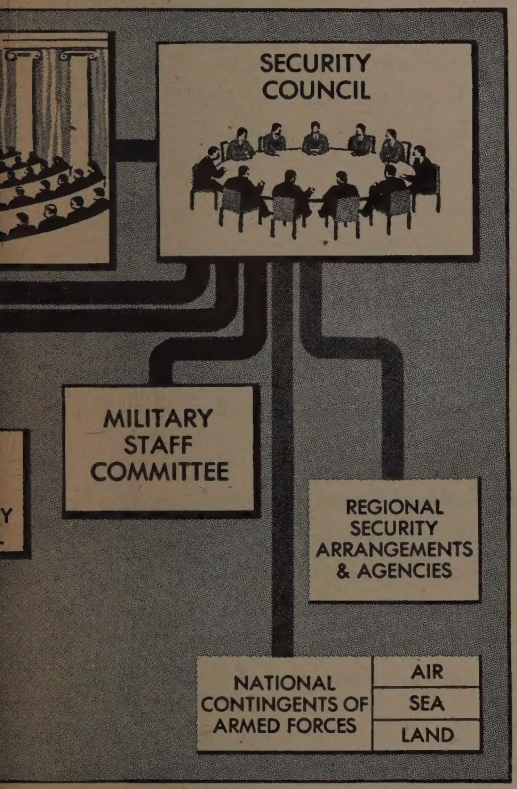
ADMITS NEW MEMBERS TO UNITED NATIONS

Brings in new member nations and, if necessary in the interests of peace, expels members or suspends their rights and privileges.

FOR FU
ASK

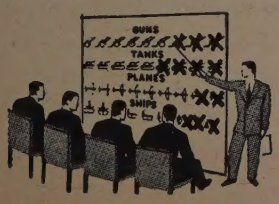
NATIONS

E AND WORLD PROGRESS



OSED AT DUMBARTON OAKS

and released on October 9, 1944. They are offered for full sion by the governments and peoples of the United Nations.



MAKES PLANS TO CONTROL ARMAMENTS

Elaborates plans for the regulation and limitation of armaments.

INVESTIGATES DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS

Finds out about differences or disputes between nations that might lead to international friction or cause a threat to the peace.

SEEKS PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS

Urges nations to settle their disputes by peaceful means, including appeal to the International Court of Justice.

DECIDES ON MEASURES TO KEEP THE PEACE

Security Council decides what steps should be taken if a dispute continues and war is threatened.

TAKES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACTION

Cuts off trade, communication and diplomatic relations with nations threatening the peace. Member nations cooperate as requested.

TAKES MILITARY ACTION

As a last resort, uses armed contingents of United Nations to keep or restore the peace. Military Staff Committee advises on best use of forces.

(Continued from page 3)

MAINTAINING PEACE

● Each member state would commit itself to settle disputes with other nations by peaceful means, such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration or reference to an International Court of Justice.

If these methods fail, the parties to the dispute would be required to refer their problems to the organization which would be given authority, first, to recommend methods of adjustment or, second, to employ diplomatic, economic or other action not requiring the use of armed forces. Should these measures be inadequate, the organization could employ armed forces to maintain or restore international peace.

The organization would have the power to use any or all of these methods, not only to halt acts of aggression already begun, but also to eliminate threats to the peace.

PROMOTING GENERAL STABILITY AND HUMAN WELFARE

● By recommendations and other means the organization would promote world-wide cooperation for the solution of international economic, social and other problems. It would foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people. Specialized international organizations and agencies, such as the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Commission, would be brought into relationship with the general organization. Their policies and activities would thus be coordinated under the broad plan of THE UNITED NATIONS.

ORGANS OF THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION

● ***A General Assembly,*** to have primary responsibility for problems of broad policy and the promotion of general welfare. To be composed of representatives of all member states, to meet annually, or in special sessions. Each state would have one vote.

● ***An Economic and Social Council,*** operating under the General Assembly and composed of representatives of eighteen members of the organizations, these states to be elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

● ***A Security Council,*** to have primary responsibility for the maintainance of peace and security. To be composed of representatives of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China, and eventually France, and non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The Security Council would sit in permanent session. The five great powers would be given permanent seats in recognition of the fact that the heaviest burden for maintaining international peace and security should rest upon those states which are in a position to discharge that responsibility most effectively.

● ***A Military Staff Committee,*** operating under the Security Council and composed of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives, with other states participating when necessary.

● ***An International Court of Justice,*** to act as the principal judicial organ of the Organization. It would consider and render judgments in disputes referred to it which can be settled upon the basis of rules of law. Upon request, it would also give advice to the Security Council on legal questions involved in other disputes.

● ***A Secretariat,*** headed by a Secretary General as chief administrative officer, elected by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Security Council.

A pamphlet containing the text of the proposals may be obtained at 5 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

This statement was prepared for parent-teacher members by the U. S. Department of State in cooperation with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

THE PROPOSED *Food* AND *Agriculture* ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DO you know that "although twice as many people are engaged in agriculture as in all other occupations combined, two thirds of the people of the world have never had enough of the right kinds of food"?

Do you know that one of the basic causes of war is the perennial want of food and therefore that we must give thought to the food supply of the world if we want international peace?

Because of these facts President Roosevelt invited representatives of the United Nations to meet at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May 1943 to consider how to give the peoples of the world freedom from want. This conference of experts in agriculture and nutrition came to the following conclusions:

- *That progress in the science of agriculture and nutrition makes possible an adequate food supply for all nations*
- *That the peace-loving nations should better their own conditions by "cooperative action to secure increased efficiency in the production and distribution of agricultural products"*

SOON after the Hot Springs Conference an Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture was established in Washington to formulate "a specific plan for a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture." Delegates from all the United Nations met in Washington in July 1943, and by August 1944 the Interim Commission made its first official report to the governments represented. It had created a plan and prepared a constitution for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (now called FAO). As soon as this constitution has been accepted by twenty of the nations, an FAO conference will be called and the Interim Commission will pass out of existence. Until then the commission will continue its research.

As we are now realizing to the full, and as was foreseen, serious problems in food, nutrition, and agriculture are facing the nations ravaged by war. International action is necessary to meet these problems. We are face to face with the immediate matter of feeding prisoners of war; refugees ("displaced persons" is the official name for them); and the entire civilian populations of those countries that have been stripped of their food supplies, their farm machinery, and much of their labor and are likewise without adequate supplies of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and tools to produce crops this year.

EVEN in the United States where we have abundant food—even surpluses under normal conditions—many people have not had adequate diets and are therefore in poor physical condition. In regions of the world where modern methods of agriculture and modern understanding of nutrition are unknown and where the population is always larger than can be fed even at the lowest standards of need, we find all the diseases of malnutrition rampant and actual famine conditions whenever there is a bad harvest.

By February 1945 seventeen governments had indicated their intention to accept the constitution of the FAO. In his message to Congress on February 12, 1945, President Roosevelt said that he expected the constitution would soon be submitted to Congress.

The preamble of this document gives the purposes of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The United Nations, it reads, are "determined to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action on their part for the purposes of:

"1. Raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions

"2. Securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products

"3. Bettering the condition of rural populations

"4. And thus contributing toward an expanding world economy"

Of course the constitution itself is concerned with the details of the functions of the organization, its membership, and its staff.

This organization will be coordinated closely with the world organization for peace, as will the International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (discussed in the March *Bulletin* as being the main mechanisms of the Bretton Woods Proposals) and other international machinery. The Interim Commission is already working closely with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

THE FAO is one organization that will not need great sums of money to enable it to do its work. It has been estimated that the cost to the United States would be about $1,250,000 a year, with other nations paying a proportionate share of the costs.

Food is important to each of us, everywhere. The proposed FAO is of concern to those who produce food and those who consume. If its provisions can be carried out, all rural life will be helped, and a big step will have been taken toward removing a basic cause of war.

- The above is based on an article "Food for the Family of Nations" by Howard R. Tolley and Leroy D. Stinebower, published in the *Department of State Bulletin*, February 18, 1945.

April 14 is Pan American Day

Not only parent-teacher associations in our Southwestern states but P.T.A.'s everywhere will welcome the opportunity to observe Pan American Day on April 14. The recent conference at Mexico City has served to strengthen the ties of hemispheric friendship—the purpose for which this day was set aside in 1930 by 21 American republics.

Many kinds of programs are possible: fiestas, luncheons, teas; plays and pageants; movies; talks by qualified speakers; exhibits; Latin-American music; outdoor events participated in by community groups such as the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls; and conferences for young people.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE BAXTERS?

Save Tin, Paper, and Fats!

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Suggested Outline for Panel Discussion of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals

P.T.A. programs on the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals have been conducted in many different ways by many associations. Local units that have not as yet had an opportunity to present the proposals to their groups may find the following suggestions helpful for a panel discussion on this pertinent subject. The outline, prepared by Frances A. Thomas of the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, supplies a framework that can be used by the P.T.A. in adapting the discussion to the facilities and program procedures of local associations.

Participants: *Discussion leader, mother, teacher, father, two high school students* (a boy and a girl), *and a veteran of World War I.*

1. The *discussion leader* opens the presentation with a simple statement of the nature of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals and their significance to the people of the community. (See the United Nations supplement in this issue of the *Bulletin.*)

2. The *mother* ventures the opinion that robot bombing in the future could bring our country within range of enemy military action, and emphasizes her interest in the proposals as a matter of self-preservation for both our nation and the world. She states why she thinks the United Nations should be given a chance to work out a plan that will prevent future wars. She also expresses her earnest desire for a world in which her children and their children can live in peace.

3. The *teacher* explains the purposes of the proposals and analyzes the obligations of membership. He emphasizes the functions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. (In this connection, use the *chart* in the United Nations supplement of this *Bulletin.*)

4. The *father* points out the obligations of the United States in furnishing its share of the forces necessary to prevent war. He mentions the advantages to be derived from the United Nations organization, not only in freedom from war but in the promotion of general economic welfare through improved world trade.

What To Do . . .

• *With the United Nations Supplement in this issue of the* Bulletin

1. Read it yourself.
2. Post it where every other member can see it and read it.
3. Send to your state office for extra copies of it to place:
   - *In libraries.*
   - *On bulletin boards in schools.*
   - *In church Bible study and Sunday school classrooms.*
   - *In dentists' and doctors' offices and in beauty parlors.*
4. Take it with you to show to friends at:
   - *Church meetings.*
   - *Service club luncheons.*
   - *Red Cross meetings.*
   - *Women's club affairs.*
   - *Parent education and preschool study groups.*
   - *Any informal gatherings.*
5. Where facilities and funds are available, have the chart section enlarged and display as a poster in connection with panel discussions, forums, or symposiums concerning the United Nations peace proposals.

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5. The *students* present the views of the youth of the nation. They stress the fact that youth is impatient with mere talk and earnestly desires peace machinery that will *work.*

6. The *veteran* contributes the point of view of those who fought in World War I and failed to achieve that for which they struggled and for which many died. He pledges his support in making the most of this second chance to establish a peaceful world.

7. The *discussion leader* then emphasizes again the need for enlightening the public about the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. He encourages all present to tell their neighbors about the proposals and to write to their senators urging ratification when the United Nations agreement comes before the Senate.

• At the close of the panel discussion a question and answer period will provide a profitable and interesting climax for the meeting.

The Veteran's Second Victory

THE leading article in the April issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* is one that deserves the widest possible reading and study. Every parent-teacher leader should read it first of all, then turn it over to the chairmen of mental hygiene, health, home and family life, and war activities committees to read.

This article, called *The Veteran's Second Victory,* is a very important discussion of the serviceman who may come home nervously exhausted or physically disabled. It was written by Colonel William C. Menninger, chief of the neuropsychiatric division, U.S. Surgeon General's Office.

Colonel Menninger is known throughout the world for his work in the famous Menninger Clinic at Topeka, Kansas. He has seen men in combat and knows what they have endured. He describes the kind of action and attitude that will hasten the veteran's second victory—his success in adjusting himself to civilian life.

Colonel Menninger says that the parent-teacher associations of the country can be one of our most potent forces in helping the veterans' families and friends to understand what they can and should do to help their menfolk.

Gas-Asphyxiation

Gas-asphyxiation fatalities have increased 50 per cent since the beginning of the war. Gas killed 1,800 Americans in their homes during 1943. Carbon monoxide, dangerous because it is both colorless and odorless, caused most of these deaths.

- One fifth of these fatalaties were caused by coal gas—mostly carbon monoxide—produced when stoves, furnaces, or flues are defective or when dampers are not properly set.
- About half of the deaths were caused by illuminating gas. Makeshift arrangements to supplement rationed heat and badly worn equipment were named as contributors to this increase. Poorly adjusted burners and leaky fittings are chief offenders.

The National Safety Council suggests that periodic inspection of all gas equipment become a matter of household routine. Many utility companies offer this as a regular part of their service.